

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Mohr

DATE: February 10, 1961

FROM : C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT: *Robert Kennedy*
 ATTORNEY GENERAL APPEARANCE 3-5-61/
 "THE GREAT CHALLENGE"
 (COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM NETWORK
 TELEVISION PROGRAM)
 THEME: "INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM"

Tolson _____
 Mohr _____
 Parsons _____
 Belmont _____
 Casper _____
 Callahan _____
 Conrad _____
 DeLoach _____
 Malone _____
 McGuire _____
 Rosen _____
 Trotter _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Holmes _____
 Gandy _____

At 9:45 a.m. today while Wick talked with Ed Guthman, Director of Public Information in the Department, Guthman stated that at 8:00 p.m. yesterday the Attorney General decided to accept an invitation from Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) -- television network to appear on the television program "The Great Challenge" which will be telecast live 3-5-61. Edward R. Murrow, the new Director of U. S. Information Agency, and Averell Harriman will also probably appear. The moderator of the program will be CBS' Howard K. Smith.

Guthman said the Attorney General would like to have from us background data in the form of a general orienting brief designed to acquaint the Attorney General with international communism. Guthman said he believes that some 25 to 30 pages of typed material dealing with international communism, its aims, purposes and activities would suffice. The basic material could consist of two parts. The first part would be the Communist Party USA (what it is, what it is doing -- spell out current trends and dangers). The second part would deal with Soviet espionage and what the situation is. (This could be illustrated by cases, past and present.) Guthman pointed out that for instance the current Kroger-Cohen case, its relationship to the Abel case, would be of interest, and possibly recent espionage cases handled by the FBI.

EX 109 REC-47

Frankly, said Guthman, he does not know precisely what the Attorney General will say or what course he will take but he does need basic material, guide lines, cases and suggestions as to how he should approach the matter so that he might be fully equipped to discuss any phase of international communism. Mr. Guthman said the Attorney General would probably not start working on this matter until possibly some time late the week of 2-20-61. He would need the material around that time.

Wick related the above to Mr. Tolson this morning who suggested that the orienting brief be prepared by the Domestic Intelligence Division. The brief should be restrained but objective and should definitely be prepared with the view to setting limits as to just how far the Attorney General can go in his discussions.

Enclosures

- 1 - Mr. Parsons
- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan

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We should finish by 2-16-61
so Tolson & DeLoach go over it - K

DeLoach to Mohr 2-10-61

Re: AG Appearance 3-5-61 "The Great Challenge"

CBS Network TV Program, Theme: "International Communism"

Mr. Tolson suggested that as a guide for the brief the Domestic Intelligence Division utilize the address given by Inspector W. C. Sullivan before a Tucson group 1-15-61, a tape of which we have in the office. Around and within this address can be built the orienting brief containing the basic material desired by the Attorney General.

In addition to the above brief, it is believed we should make available to Guthman copies (attached) of "Expose of Soviet Espionage - May 1960," and "Communist Target - Youth" for the Attorney General's use.

RECOMMENDATION:

That this memorandum be referred to the Domestic Intelligence Division for handling. The prepared brief should be returned to my office for handling with Guthman.

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OK.
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